

to know more about his professional life, but we should be grateful for this much information about an important and influential botanist.—JOHN H. THOMAS, Department of Biological Sciences, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305.

A Monograph of the Genus Lasiantha (Asteraceae). By KENNETH M. BECKER. Mem. New York Bot. Gard. 31(2):1–64. 1979. ISBN 0-89327-211-6. \$6.50 + postage and handling (\$1 for USA, \$2 for others, from Publications Dept., N.Y.B.G., Bronx, NY 10458).

Becker supports his essentially α -taxonomic treatment of the predominantly Mexican eleven species and nine non-typical varieties with synopses of history, diagnostic characteristics of and within *Lasiantha*, preliminary results of flavonoid studies, chromosome numbers, and instances of hybridization. Keys, nomenclature, typification, and descriptions are well-done. Habitats are indicated, as are distributions (including six maps). Selected specimens are cited for each taxon and a list of specimens seen is appended.—JOHN L. STROTHER, Department of Botany, University of California, Berkeley 94720.

A Synonymized Checklist of the Vascular Flora of the United States, Canada, and Greenland. II. The Biota of North America. By JOHN T. KARTESZ and ROSEMARIE KARTESZ. 498 p. Univ. North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill 27514. 1980. ISBN 0-8078-1422-9. \$35, cloth.

Seven years of work by the authors has produced the most extensive and comprehensive plant checklist yet compiled. It is intended to provide a complete list of currently accepted names of North American vascular plants and of currently used synonyms.

This enormous task has been mitigated by the collaboration of more than 250 specialists. Publication of this volume is an important step in understanding the North American flora. It represents the best synthesis of taxonomic knowledge currently available and will serve as an important reference as well as the basis for more detailed studies.

As with any floristic list, this one should be considered neither final nor completely accurate. However, the authors are to be commended for their dedication, the quality of their work, and the service they have performed for the taxonomic community.—THOMAS DUNCAN, Department of Botany, University of California, Berkeley 94720.

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